

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and arguments herein, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 13 are currently pending. In the present Response, Applicants cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend independent claim 1 in part to include the elements of cancelled claim 8. No new matter is introduced. Support may be found in Applicants' specification, for example, at page 12, line 22 through page 14, line 2 and at page 31, lines 3 - 11.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 7 - 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-018850 to Toshiyuki et al. ("Toshiyuki"). Claims 2 - 6, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshiyuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,437,502 to Nishio et al. ("Nishio"). Applicants cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and submit therefore that the rejection as to claim 8 is moot. Applicants amend claim 1 to further define the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse the rejections as to claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 11.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants claim:

1. A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp comprising:

a fluorescent lamp;

a lighting circuit having a one-package switch, inductors, and capacitors, said one-package switch containing in a single package a pair of field effect transistors that serve as inverter switches for driving the fluorescent lamp, said field effect transistors being complementary; and

By providing paired drain terminals for each transistor, as well as individual gate and source terminals for each transistor, Applicants' package increases the number of terminals provided (i.e., 8 terminals) by a factor of 2 over the package switch 74, 77 of Toshiyuki (4 terminals). Significantly, Applicants' claimed package provides substantially increased terminal area (as well as associated land and solder connection area on the circuit board) than the package switch 74, 77, enabling improved heat dissipation for the device (see, e.g., page 31, lines 3 - 11 of Applicants' specification). Accordingly, for at least the above-argued reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of Toshiyuki, and stands in condition for allowance.

Claims 2- 6 and 9 - 13 each depend from one of allowable independent claims 1 and 10. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2- 6 and 9 - 13 are also allowable.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

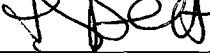
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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